

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,059,173 (Sacco). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of determining a composition of an infusion line. Components for forming the infusion line are classified into unit groups, which are defined based on properties of that unit, i.e. the role or function of that unit in the infusion line. The units are configured to be of specified shapes and sizes so that a single size connector is capable of connecting the units together. At least one kind of the units from each of the unit groups are selected based on the determined combination of unit groups. By this arrangement, the composition of an infusion line easily can be adapted to various demands and requirements, while simplifying the production system and reducing costs. *See, e.g.*, page 8, lines 21-27 of the specification. Moreover, by defining the classification of the units based on their function in the infusion line, the components can be selected systematically and the proper infusion line can be determined with relative ease.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Sacco teaches a "combination of components of specific sizes and shapes." Although this may be true, Sacco does not teach or suggest the classification of components and provision of plural kinds of units that are configured to be combinable with a *single size connector*. Thus, contrary to the present invention, a composition of an infusion line such as that disclosed in Sacco cannot be selected systematically in such a way that the proper infusion line can be determined with relative ease. Moreover, the present invention requires the classification of components in such a manner that further facilitates the selection of components and units in the infusion line. Applicant respectfully submits that Sacco does not teach or suggest at least these features, as the mere combination of various components does not teach or suggest classifying and selection of components as claimed by the present invention.

Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 is allowable over Sacco. Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,552,556 (Urquhart). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Urquhart also does not disclose or suggest at least the above features. Like Sacco, Urquhart simply relates to a method of administering multiple intravenous fluids to a patient. However, Urquhart does not teach or suggest a method of determining the composition of an infusion line that includes the single size connector and classification system as explained above with respect to Sacco. Accordingly, like Sacco, Urquhart cannot teach or suggest a method of determining a composition of an infusion line that requires a classification and provision of plural kinds of units that are configured to be combinable with a single size connector. Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 is allowable over Urquhart. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Sacco in view of Urquhart. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

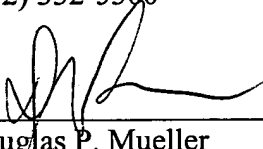
Claims 6 and 7 depend from allowable claim 1. Urquhart does not remedy the deficiencies of Sacco as noted above. Accordingly, Applicant therefore submits that claims 6 and 7 are also allowable over the cited reference. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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